THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS

BENGALURU • WEDNESDAY • JULY 27, 2022 • ₹9.00 • PAGES 24 • LATE CITY EDITION

CHENNAI • MADURAI • VIJAYAWADA • BENGALURU • KOCHI • HYDERABAD • VISAKHAPATNAM • COIMBATORE • KOZHIKODE • THIRUVANANTHAPURAM • BELAGAVI • BHUBANESWAR • SHIVAMOGGA • MANGALURU • TIRUPATI • TIRUCHY • TIRUNELVELI • SAMBALPUR • HUBBALLI • DHARWAD • KOTTAYAM • KANNUR • VILLUPURAM • KOLLAM • TADEPALLIGUDEM • NAGAPATTINAM • THRISSUR • KALABURAGI

DESPITE SC ORDER, GOVT PLANS TO KEEP GIR LIONS IN GUJARAT

The Centre plans to relocate some of the Asiatic lions from the Gir sanctuary to other suitable areas within Gujarat. The Supreme Court had in 2013 ordered that some of the big cats be translocated to suitable places outside the state to avoid extinction due to spread of an epidemic. The Gujarat government is reportedly not in favour of shifting the royal beasts to other states, hence the Center's attempt at a workaround to spread them within the state itself | P9

RS RECORD AS 19 MPs SUSPENDED FOR A WEEK

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ New Delhi

WITH a record 19 Rajya Sabha members being suspended for a week on Tuesday for disrupting proceedings as they demanded discussions on a clutch of issues, including price rise, the stand-off between the Centre and the Opposition is set to intensify further.

Ever since the monsoon session began, the Opposition has been on its feet demanding discussions on price rise and levy of GST on essential items. The government, too, is ready for discussions as soon as Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman recovers from Covid.

Opposition leaders are scheduled to meet on Wednesday to discuss their future strategy in the wake of the suspension. They may join the suspended MPs who have been sitting in protest near the Gandhi statue within the Parliament complex.

On Monday, four Congress members of the Lok Sabha were suspended for the rest of the session for displaying placards in the House.

After the first half of the Rajya Sabha proceedings were washed out, when Opposition members entered the Well of the House shouting slogans during the second half, Deputy chairman Harivansh Narayan Singh warned them of action. But the Opposition continued their protest seeking suspension of business to take up price rise.

As his pleas went unheeded, Harivansh asked the treasury benches to move a resolution for suspension. Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs V Muraleedharan moved a motion to suspend 10 MPs — seven from the Trinamool, two DMK and one CPI(M). Nine more names were added before the motion was put to vote.

The 19 MPs include M Mohamed Abdulla, S Kalyanasundaram, R Girirajan, N R Elango, M Shanmugam and Kanimozhi N V N Somu (all DMK); B Lingaiah Yadav, Ravichandra Vaddiraju and Damodar Rao Divakonda (all TRS); A A Rahim and V Sivadasan (all CPM) and Sandosh Kumar P of CPI. After the suspension, the MPs refused to leave, squatting on the floor of the House leading to adjournment for the day. AAP member Sanjay Singh was seen tearing up a paper and flinging it towards the chair.

Previous high was 12

This is the highest number of suspensions in one go in the Rajya Sabha; the previous record was 12 MPs during the winter session in November last year

Delhi Police detain Congress leader Rahul Gandhi during a protest march in New Delhi on Tuesday | RAVEEN JAIN

ED questions Sonia for six hours

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ New Delhi

THE Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Tuesday questioned Congress president Sonia Gandhi for over six hours in the National Herald money laundering case amid party's protests over alleged misuse of investigative agencies for political gains.

On July 21, she had responded to 28 questions by the ED team and spent over two hours at its office. Sonia has been summoned to appear again on Wednesday. Like last time, Sonia was accompanied by daughter Priyanka Gandhi Vadra and son Rahul Gandhi. While Priyanka stayed back at the agency in another room, Rahul left soon thereafter. In the first half of the day, Sonia was questioned for about 2.5 hours while post-lunch session went on for over 3.5 hours.

Rahul later led a protest march of Congress MPs from Parliament to Rashtrapati Bhavan. He and over 50 other Congress MPs were detained by the Delhi Police at Vijay Chowk.

"India is a police state now, that's the truth. PM Modi is a king, and this is a police state. What will happen if MPs cannot meet the President?" Rahul told the media.

Leaders of several opposition parties wrote to President Droupadi Murmu alleging the misuse of Central agencies to target them and sought her intervention.

Twitter moves K'taka HC over 'blocking orders'

YATHIRAJU @ Bengaluru

THE Karnataka High Court on Tuesday issued notice to the Union of India on a petition filed by Twitter Inc. The company operating the microblogging and social networking service Twitter, in its petition before the High Court challenged the multiple "blocking orders" issued by the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology from February 2, 2021 to February 28, 2022.

The orders under sections of the Information Technology Act were issued to block 1,474 accounts/URLs and 175 tweets from being accessed by the public, besides certain information which included suspension of whole accounts on Twitter.

Hearing the petition filed by Twitter, Justice Krishna S Dixit ordered notice to the Centre and adjourned the hearing to August 25, 2022. This was at the request of senior counsels Mukul Rohatgi and Ashok Harnalli, representing Twitter Inc.

In its petition filed before the HC, Twitter stated that contents of Twitter accounts and tweets in question that were ordered to be blocked by the Union government fell under the freedom of speech guaranteed under Article 19(1)(a) of the Indian Constitution and did not violate Section 69A of Information Technology Act.

It also highlighted several originators of tweets were identifiable public figures and some of the URLs contained political and journalistic content. P6

EXPRESS READ

DAC nod to ₹28Kcr arms procurement proposals

New Delhi: The Defence Acquisition Council (DAC), chaired by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, on Tuesday extended the Acceptance of Necessity (AoN) for capital acquisition proposals of the Armed Forces amounting to ₹28,732 crores to procure swarm drones, bulletproof jackets and cabines. | P9

25 sandalwood trees reduced to stumps

Bengaluru: The state forest department officials are on the hunt for a gang that reduced 25 sandalwood trees, which were 4-5 years old, to mere stumps during a late night theft at the Gottiupura state forest in Hoskote. Special teams have been formed to protect the forest patch and find the culprits. | P7

Time to stand up against BJP: Alva

In an exclusive interview with TNIE, Opposition V-P candidate Margaret Alva says, "When every political party is threatened, how can there be a free and fair election? It is time to stand up and put up a fight against the BJP." | P9

EXPRESS INTAKE

Govt plans mass marriage scheme for SC/STs | P4

State to have its first-ever Firefly park in two years | P7

IMF cuts India growth to 7.4% for current year | P8

Bajrang Dal men halt party at Mangaluru pub

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Mangaluru

IN yet another incident of 'moral policing', Bajrang Dal activists disrupted a farewell party of some college students at a pub in Mangaluru city on Monday night. The incident which occurred at 'Re-Cycle The Lounge' located in Balmatta sparked outrage with Opposition parties demanding strict action against the culprits and accusing the government of tacitly supporting fringe groups to carry out such acts.

It is the same pub, which was functioning under a different name - Amnesia, that was attacked by Sri Rama Sene activists in January 2009.

Sources said that a group of Bajrang Dal activists reached the pub around 8 pm after they learnt about the farewell party. They took the pub bouncers and manager to task, accusing them of serving liquor to some underage boys and girls who were at the party. Within a few minutes, the pub asked the partying students to leave.

Videos that went viral on Tuesday showed some boys and girls walking out of the pub even as a cop and Hindutva activists stood outside. The activists were heard hurling abuses at the students and the cop remained a mute spectator to the unruly scene. P6

Police and Bajrang Dal activists in front of the pub in Mangaluru | EXPRESS

Sri Narendra Modi
Hon'ble Prime Minister

Rural Drinking Water and Sanitation Department
Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Department

SWACHH GRAMODAYA
'Safe drinking water, open defecation free villages is our priority'

Sri Basavaraj S. Bommai
Hon'ble Chief Minister

Swachh Bharat Mission(G)

- More than 50.14 Lakh Individual Household Latrines (IHHL) constructed
- More than 1842 Community Sanitary Complexes (CSC) constructed
- 4579 Swachha Sankeerna (SWM) units established with unique Branding.
- Waste management activities are initiated in Swachha Sankeerna (SWM) units of 4579 Grama Panchayats
- Action taken for implementation of more than 14 GOBAR-dhan units
- Approved 21612 Liquid Waste Management (LWM) DPRs

Jal Jeevan Mission (Mane Manege Gange)

- Reached more than 53.00 Lakh Households in Karnataka through providing Functional Household Tap Connections (FHTC) under JJM
- 100% FHTCs have been provided in one Taluka, 462 Gram Panchayats and 3757 Villages
- Safe drinking water facilities provided to 95000 Schools and Anganawadi centres
- 80 Labs are established for testing of drinking water quality
- NABL accreditation obtained for 17 District level and 11 Taluka level water testing laboratories
- Water quality is being tested at all primary sources using FTKs (Field Test Kits) across rural areas
- PARIHARA-a dedicated Call Center is established for Grievance redressal of Water and Sanitation issues

ONE YEAR OF
RESOLUTION TO REALIZATION

To safeguard public property and to abjure violence is the Fundamental Duty of every Indian.

Contact Parihara helpline to solve all your grievances related to water and sanitation.
parihara
94809 85555
parihara.rdwd@gmail.com @SwachhMevaJayate
gokRDPR www.swachhamevajayate.org